

THE SUBURBAN CITIZEN.

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THE CONTRIBUTORS are Business Men, Business Women, Scientists, Plain People, Travelers, Poets, etc., etc. In other words, people familiar whereof they write, who tell their stories in a way that will interest our suburban friends.

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In speaking to the editor of the Citizen the other day Mr. Louis P. Shoemaker, president of the Brightwood Citizens' Association, said:

"YOUR PAPER IS CERTAINLY DOING GOOD WORK FOR THE SUBURBS AND SUBURBAN PEOPLE. IT IS A GREAT PITY THE OTHER PAPERS, TOO, DON'T DEVOTE SOME SPACE TO OUR INTERESTS."

Many of the terrors of navigation in stormy or foggy weather are likely to be removed with the adoption of the submarine signalling system now being tested on our Atlantic coast. Bells are anchored under water and rung by electricity. By the use of a receiver, let down into the water from a ship's side, the sound of the bells has been heard at a distance of fourteen miles. It is also possible to tell from what direction the sound comes, so that the system should enable a navigator easily to determine his position in a fog.

The United States is a land of experiment. Foreigners were disposed to smile at Americans for spending so much money in equipping cable lines for street cars. Cable cars were used in Birmingham, England, before they were adopted in America, and were abandoned as cumbersome and uncertain at critical times. The American idea is to use the best that is available until something superior can be employed. It costs considerable to do this, and only people in a rich country can afford it, but it is the sure way to progress, reflects the Baltimore American.

H. G. Wells, in a lecture delivered recently before the Royal Institution, London, made some statements which have aroused widespread interest. He claims that, if the amazing searchlight of inference which has brought out so much from the remotest past were cast upon the future, by seeking for operating causes, we might tell with certainty what will happen. The man of science, he says, will believe that the events in A. D. 4000 are fixed and unchangeable, with the exception of man and his children. He believes that the orbit of the earth will change "until the tidal drag hauls one unchanging face at last toward the sun." He holds, also, that great men are only instruments taken haphazard by incessant and constant forces—"the pen nibs which fate uses in her writings."

OOM PAUL IN EXILE.

How the Old Man Lives in the Little Town of Hilversum in Holland.

The final scene in the long and adventurous career of the ex-President of the South African Republic, now on the point of absorption in the British dominions, are being enacted at a little town named Hilversum, in Holland. According to the latest advices, his end cannot be very far off, and one of the most remarkable men of the last century will disappear forever from the stage of human affairs. Mr. Kruger inhabits a small, two-storyed house, known as Casa Cara, similar in every way to the residence of the wealthy Dutch merchants, and of the usual type of country houses in Holland. There are grounds surrounding the building in which the President spends a good portion of each day.

Hilversum is a town of about 28,000 inhabitants, and is half an hour's ride by rail from Amsterdam. It is a favorite country residence of the Dutch, being very healthful and quiet. Oom Paul rises early, according to his lifelong custom, takes a cup of black coffee the first thing in the morning, and when dressed repairs to the garden, where he remains, as a rule, till half past 9. During this time he goes through his mail, which has previously been classified for him by his private secretary. He always takes with him on these occasions his two inseparable companions, a large pipe and a large, old-fashioned Bible, with large, metal clasps.

Although he knows the sacred books almost by heart, especially those of the Old Testament, and can always quote an appropriate passage from the Bible suitable for any given emergency, yet he, nevertheless, reads his Bible every day under the shade of a large tree in the pleasant grounds of the villa. At noon, precisely, for Mr. Kruger is nothing if not methodical, he takes a cold luncheon with his party, which as a rule, consists of his nephew, Mr. Eloff, who is also his private secretary, and Mr. van Boschoten, ex-Chief of the Transvaal Ministry; Messrs. Back van Ven and Breudel, who are in attendance on the aged ex-President. His faithful servant, Happe, and a Belgian physician, Dr. Heymann, always accompany him. The latter has forbidden him the use of wine or liquors, his only drink being mineral water. After luncheon Mr. Kruger takes a siesta, which lasts till 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He then goes for a drive in a carriage bearing the former arms and escutcheon of the Transvaal and returns to the house by 6 o'clock. It pleases the old man greatly to observe the general respect which he meets with from all classes of the public, and even the children strike up the Boer national anthem, which every one knows in Holland, as he passes by. He takes supper at half past 6, and retires invariably at 8 p. m.

His undaunted spirit does not appear to be crushed by the reverses which have overtaken his beloved country, and from time to time he observes: "We are strong as ever we were; we can continue this fight right along, and will never admit defeat." Brave expressions from the lips of this most remarkable old man, whose name will undoubtedly drift down to the remotest posterity.—Philadelphia Public Ledger

Hot Water Service.

The supply of hot water for public heating systems from a central station is growing in favor in smaller towns, and it would seem to be the ideal and most economical method of heating, even in large cities. The hot water is returned to the central station after passing through the radiators of the consumers, with a comparatively small loss in temperature. One concern in an Ohio town, with over two miles of mains, finds that the loss in temperature is only thirty-five degrees when water is sent out at a temperature of 190 degrees. The temperature of the water circulated is modified to suit the weather conditions. When it is very cold the temperature of the water sent out from the central station is made higher, and the pumps which force it through the mains are made to work faster. In this manner a uniform temperature is maintained at all times, despite marked changes in the weather. The company guarantees to maintain a given temperature within two per cent. Of course, the freedom from dirt, ashes and other fire troubles are also desirable features. As the water is used over and over again the central company, particularly if the system is conducted as an adjunct of a power station, can furnish the service at a comparatively moderate price. In the latter case the exhaust steam furnishes nearly if not all of the heat required.

How Science Won.

It is well for a woman to know the pet subject of the man she is interested in. Perhaps in the long run Lord Kelvin's second marriage did not depend wholly on the woman's knowing his hobby, but as the story is told in the New York Post, her knowledge hastened their engagement. In the early seventies, when he was Sir William Thomson, he took up as a recreation the question of simplifying the method of signals at sea.

He had been talking of it at the dinner-table of a friend in Madeira, and the only one that seemed able to grasp it was his host's daughter, a lady he greatly but silently admired.

"I quite understand you, Sir William," she said.

"If I sent you a signal from my yacht do you think you could read it and could answer me?"

"I would try," she responded. "I believe I should succeed in making the message out."

The next day the signal was sent from the yacht and duly answered. His message was, "Will you marry me?" And her answer was, "Yes."

NAMING OF CLOTHES.

France was the Birthplace of Many Universal Designations.

Some people occasionally feel bewildered by the names the articles of feminine apparel bear, and will be interested in learning their origin and derivation. The word "costume" comes from the French word signifying custom and dress from the French verb dresser, to make straight, and this is derived from deriger, to direct; petticoat comes from the Anglo-Norman outdoor garment, which was called a "cotte," and was subsequently modified into coat. Petticoat or small coat, is due to petty, signifying small. Skirt is from the Anglo-Saxon work scyrtan, to shorten. We have come to consider that which covers the lower part of the body as a skirt and the upper part the bodice, the word bodice being the plural of body, for more than one bodice is mostly worn. The word "gown" comes from the Welsh "gwn." "Corset" is a French word from "corps," the body, and the diminutive ette—namely, a little body. "Stays" express support, from the French word "estai." "Trousseau" comes from the French "trousse," a bundle. "Hose" is an Anglo-Saxon German word, derived from the Icelandic "hasa." "Stock" is the Anglo-Saxon for stocking, which means a trunk. "Garter" comes from "jarretiere," the French word, and "garretto," the Italian, which devotes the bend of the knee. "Pocket" means "poga," a bag or pouch, with the diminutive, the pocket being only a little bag inserted in a garment of any other article. We derive "polonaise" from the Poles, who call their surcoat the polonia, but "pelisse" comes from the Latin "pelicea," which was generally made of fur. Macintosh is the name of its inventor, and "umbrella" is from umbra, a little shade.

A Wonderful Feat.

The effects of the cyclone in September, 1880, penetrated far into the Himalayas; for three days, at an elevation of twelve thousand feet, we, a few natives and myself, lived in peril of our lives amidst torrents of rain, sleet and snow, hearing the thunder of landslips and avalanches around us, and deafened by the furious rush of water in the valley below. To light a fire was impossible, says a traveler, we waited wearily for annihilation and subsisted on what tinmed meat we still possessed at the conclusion of a hunting trip. On the fourth day the skies cleared, and we eagerly scanned the opposite hillside, to ascertain if the village was still standing. As the sun broke through the heavy banks of clouds we saw some forlorn individuals on their house roofs, apparently similarly engaged, and my companions at once opened a conversation with them, in spite of the distance, which could not be less than a mile and a half, and in spite also of the fact that the river which flowed between almost drowned our voices when in conversation with each other. There was no apparent effort on our side, and no reply was intelligible to my untrained ear. Yet we asked for assistance, and we received it when, a few days later, the water had subsided sufficiently to permit a chain of fifteen strong men to ford the river and rescue us from starvation.

Would Find a Change.

There is a very good story told in an English paper about little Prince Edward of Wales. It says that the other day a lady was visiting the royal children in their nursery, when the young prince looked up and asked: "Do you think that great-grandmamma is quite happy in heaven?" The lady replied: "Why, yes, my dear; don't you think so?" "Well, I am not quite sure," answered the little prince. "You see, she will have to walk behind the angels there, while here she always walked in front of every one."

UNCLE SAM BUILDS A TOWN.

Navy Department to Construct Homes at Olongapo Naval Station.

Uncle Sam is going to build a town. It will be constructed at Olongapo, the site of the proposed naval station on Subig Bay, Philippine Islands, says the Washington Times.

Such action is believed to be necessary in order to provide labor for the plant. Plans for the town are being prepared by Rear Admiral M. T. Endicott, chief of the bureau of yards and docks.

Rear Admiral Endicott points out that many shipbuilding corporations have been compelled to build towns in the vicinity of their plants. They rent the houses at a nominal figure to their employees. The latter elect their mayor and other officers.

The plans of the department also propose the construction of a railroad which shall connect Manila and Olongapo.

Long American Tunnel.

The Pennsylvania railroad company has decided to construct a tunnel seven miles long to avoid the great Horse-shoe curve, which is one of the most notable features on the line. It will be the largest enterprise of the kind in railroad construction so far attempted on this continent. The Hoosac, the longest at present in operation, is less than four miles in length. The Cascade tunnel of the Great Northern railway is two and one-half miles long and the tunnel projected through the Sierra to reduce 1,500 feet of grade on the Central Pacific railroad will be only one and one-half miles in length. The proposed Pennsylvania railroad tunnel will shorten the line only three miles and reduce the time in transit three minutes, but the lessening of wear and tear on the rolling stock, which must be very heavy on the present curves and grades of the Horse-shoe, will doubtless compensate the company for the investment.

Oldest House in America.

There have been controversies regarding the location of the oldest house in America, but it is now agreed that this landmark is situated in St. Augustine, Florida, on a tiny, narrow thoroughfare near the center of the old city. It was built in 1564 by the monks of the Order of St. Francis.

The whole of the solid structure is constructed of coquina, a combination of sea shells and mortar that is almost indestructible.

This substance was quite plentiful in the vicinity of St. Augustine. The walls of the old city gate, as well as that of Fort Marion, are built of this material and are still in an excellent state of preservation.

When Sir Francis Drake sacked and burned the town, this was the only house left in his path of destruction, and it is consequently highly prized as a remnant of the days of the old regime. A cocoa palm planted by the monks still stands as a sentinel over the little edifice.

Origin of "Puss."

A great many years ago the people of Egypt, who had many idols, worshipped the "cat" among others. They thought she was like the moon, because she was more active at night, and because her eyes changed like the moon, which is sometimes full and at other times only a light crescent, or, as we say, a half moon. Did you ever notice pussy's eyes change? So they made an idol with a cat's head and named it Pasht! The same name they gave to the moon, for the word means the face of the moon. The word has been changed to "Pas" and "Pus," and has come at last to the "Puss," the name, the most of us give to the cat. Puss and pussy cat are pet names for kitty anywhere now. Who ever thinks of the name as given to her thousands of years ago and people then bowed down and prayed to her?

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